

REMARKS

None of the claims have been amended or cancelled. Claims 1-4, 6, 7, 10 and 11 are pending and under consideration. Claims 1 and 10 are the independent claims. No new matter is presented in this Amendment.

DOUBLE PATENTING REJECTIONS:

Claims 1-3 and 10-11 are provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1 and 2 of copending Application Serial No. 10/735,850 in view of Kikuchi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,870,523).

Applicants submit herewith a Terminal Disclaimer with respect to U.S. Patent Application No. 10/735,850. In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 1-3, 10 and 11 is overcome.

Claims 4-7 are provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1 and 2 of copending Application Serial No. 10/735,850 in view of Nakai et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,999,698).

Applicants submit herewith a Terminal Disclaimer with respect to U.S. Patent Application No. 10/735,850. In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 4-7 is overcome.

Claims 1-3 and 10-11 are provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1 and 2 of copending Application Serial No. 10/735,823.

Applicants submit herewith a Terminal Disclaimer with respect to U.S. Patent Application No. 10/735,823. In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 1-3, 10 and 11 is overcome.

Claims 4-7 are provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type

double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1 and 2 of copending Application Serial No. 10/735,823 in view of Nakai et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,999,698).

Applicants submit herewith a Terminal Disclaimer with respect to U.S. Patent Application No. 10/735,823. In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 4-7 is overcome.

CONCLUSION:

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 503333.

Respectfully submitted,

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